20: Hunter G-4 (no date) 1897 AR? Khasi AR?

731 pre-eminently filthy villages on the Cherrá Púnjí plateau the epidemic appears to have found a fitting home, for it stayed among them for a period of nine weeks and a half. The civil surgeon reports the deaths at Cherrá Púnjí and the surrounding villages to have amounted to about 175 out of a total of 230 cases. During the year 1876-77 hooping-cough and small-pox were prevalent in an epidemic form. In the Jáintiá Hills small-pox is stated to have caused 47 deaths, chiefly during the months of June, July, and August. Some fatal cases of hooping-cough occurred among the Khási children in the village of Mákhar, near Shillong. The only two cases of cholera reported were in the Jáintiá Hills.

- 16 VITAL STATISTICS.—A general system of registration is not
[659] attempted throughout the Khási and Jáintiá Hills District. Statistics
[648] of births and deaths are only collected among the inhabitants of the Stations of Shillong and Cherrá Púnjí, and in the selected area in the vicinity of Jowái, which comprises the following seven villages:—Jowái, Nongkuh, Mariang, Mynsaw, Amwí, Rallang, and Shompáng. This selected area has a population of 11,504. Each village forms a distinctly-circumscribed community, in which the statistics are readily ascertained and reported by the *dalói* or head-man. The returns may be regarded as extremely close to the truth, both for births and deaths; and they thus furnish an approximate statement of the health of the entire Hills. In 1874 the total number of deaths in the selected area was 331, showing a death rate of 28 per thousand; the number of births was 431, or 34·4 per thousand. The total population of all the places in which vital statistics are collected is 15,458 persons, among whom 408 deaths were recorded in 1876, showing a death-rate of 27·6 per thousand, as compared with 27·3 per thousand in the preceding year. The deaths were thus distributed—24 from cholera, 256 from fever, 38 from bowel complaints, 2 from snake-bite or wild beasts, and 68 from all other causes. The mortality from fevers was the highest recorded throughout the entire Province. On this the civil surgeon observes:—"There are few local sources of malaria in the Hills. Many of the deaths from fever were probably due to typhoid, induced by the use of impure water and by the filthy state in which the
312 people live. There is no attempt at conservancy in a Khási village.
364 In Jowái, a good specimen of the class, the lanes and pathways are
164 strewn with excrement and house refuse. Drinking water is got from wells in the heart of the village, fed by the drainage of the